

Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-04

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NSAE-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-05 MC-02 OES-03 ERDA-05 /074 W

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R 111000Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8779

INFO CMAAG TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TW, US

SUBJECT: GROC REQUEST FOR ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND CLIPS

1. MISSION BELIEVES ROC REQUEST FOR TWO 66 MM FOUR-TUBE ROCKET LAUNCHERS (M202A1) AND 20 SETS M-74 ROCKET CLIPS REASONABLE AND RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVE PURCHASE. CHINESE ARMY (CA) PLANS TO USE THESE MATERIALS IN FIELD TEST ("RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES") TO DEVELOP A WEAPON SIMILAR TO THE M202A1 USING AN INCENDIARY PROJECTILE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE FLAME THROWER. SINCE CA IS APPROXIMATELY 50 PER CENT BELOW ITS JSOP REQUIREMENT FOR FLAME THROWERS, THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE POSSIBLE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE FOR GROC PURPOSES.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT THE COMBINED SERVICE FORCE (CSF) PRODUCED A MOCKUP OF M202 ROCKET LAUNCHER (SIMILAR TO M202 A1) PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1974. REPORTEDLY CSF HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE FIRING MECHANISM AND HAS NO PRODUCTION PLANS. CSF ALSO HAS AN APPROVED FMS CASE (DA CHINA XBK) FOR PURCHASE OF ONE M202A1. USAILC ACKNOWLEDGED PAYMENT FOR THIS PURCHASE IN MAY 1975; HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT BEEN DELIVERED. UNGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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